

PURPOSE

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) follows consistent state hospital policy pertaining to industry vendor and representative interaction.

DEFINITIONS

Industry vendor or representative is an agent of a manufacturer or company that produces, markets, re-sells, or distributes health care goods or services consumed by, or used on patients or biomedical research subjects; the term includes surrogates of these entities acting on behalf of these entities to fund specified educational activities (such as medical education services suppliers).

OVERVIEW

The following is prohibited by an industry vendor or representative in the state hospitals:

- The sponsorship of any proceedings, such as events, lectures, training activities, meals, or outings. This also includes gifts supported by vendors or representatives, even those of nominal value, such as pens, pads of paper, game tickets.
- Visits for soliciting, marketing, or distributing information regarding the use of medications, products, equipment, supplies, and services that are directly related to the vendor or representative.
- Displays of information or exhibits of medications, products, equipment, supplies, and services provided by vendors or representatives.
- Direct or by proxy utilization of the State of Michigan (SOM) e-mail system by SOM or contracted staff to communicate messages on behalf of vendors or representatives.

Additionally, the bureau director responsible for the state hospitals must approve all requests made to hospital staff by an industry vendor or representative to accept an unrestricted grant. Such requests will only be approved if there is a compelling reason and if

there has been a demonstration of how any related conflicts of interest have been resolved.

REFERENCES

American Psychiatry Association Commentary on Ethics: Relations with the pharmaceutical and other industries, Practice Topic 3.4.4.

American Psychological Association Practice Guidelines: Psychologists' Involvement in Pharmacological Issues, Guideline 14.

American Medical Association Code of Ethics: Gifts to Physicians from the Industry, Opinion 8.061.

CONTACT

For more information, contact the state assistant administrator to the Bureau of Hospitals and Administrative Operations at 517-241-3131.